

December 15, 2005

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol.XXXVII, No 4

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, December 15th, 7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:00 p.m.)
WHY	This is our special Christmas meeting with a buffet of nummies to be consumed before a very short business meeting while we await the arrival of St. Nick. to preside over our annual gift exchange.

HAVE YOU BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE? SANTA KNOWS!

It is once again, "that time" of year. Thats right! It's, "fill your belly and sit on Santa's lap time". This is our annual Christmas buffet feast, with sparkling cider, and gift exchange meeting. This year we will once again be honored by the presence of Santa Clause. He has contacted your Bellows editor to say, "MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL PSPCS MEMBERS" (who have paid their dues); and to happily announce that he will again have the time to join us on the 15th to coordinate the handing out of gifts.

He says he has the free time this year because of a very large grant he, and Mrs. Clause, received from the government's Department of Homeland Security which allowed him to hire a great number of old school chums of our government leaders to help the Elves with their never-ending task of determining who has been naughty or nice during the past year. He said he was pleased the grant was without any strings attached by the government eventhough some had raised questions about exactly what constituted Naughty and what constituted Nice. Apparently there were also some questions about what role politics might play and if the Elves would be using confidential sources. However, the Supreme Court stepped in and ruled 8 to 1 that Santa was neither Church nor State and could thus pick whomever he wanted to be naughty or nice based on a set of criteria know only to him and his helpers.

So, remember, if you want to take part in our gift exchange please bring a wrapped photographic type gift, worth at least ten (\$10) dollars, for each person in your party who would like to participate. It should be a gift you would be happy to receive. As in the past, we will draw numbers and the person with number one will be able to exchange his or her gift, if he/she so desires, at the end after everyone has selected a gift and had the chance to exchange it with the gifts already choosen and opened. Santa and his helper will settle all disputes.

Remember, you do not have to take part in the gift exchange. Just come to the meeting, eat and drink your fill, then sit by and watch the spectacle of the, "Joy of a neat gift picked and the agony of having the neat gift exchanged."

This is the meeting to which you bring your appetite, your wife, husband or significant other (no pets please..they eat too much..) and plan to have a, "Jolly Good time" as we kick off the holiday season of over eating and gift giving. Come join us one and all!!! Ho, Ho, Ho.

BACKSIDE INFORMATION

The November meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:31 There were 32 members and guests in attendance. Due to a mix-up, caused by a non-PSPCS person, our normal meeting room had been rented to another group and we were forced to hold our meeting in the main lodge meeting room, with our nummies set-up out in the hall. This caused no major problems. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as read. Our wonderful treasurer, Shirley, reported that dues (\$20.00 for 2006..which are due now!) were slowly coming in and we should be able to cover our current expenses if dues continue to be paid.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Bill Kimber reported he had once again been elected as Show Chairman and the 2006 Show committee held it's first meeting at his house in early November. The Show will now provide all 8 foot tables at the same fourty dollar price charged last year for 6 foot tables. The Show will close at 4 pm with no tickets sold after 3 pm. The Committee is working on obtaining a guest speaker for our April 27th Club meeting as part of our Show Experience Weekend. Bill noted that our April Club meeting will be on the fourth thursday..not our regular third thursday of the month. The next Show Committee meeting will be January 10th at the home of Mike Immel.

NEW BUSSINESS:

Bill Kimber showed the photographic auction catalog...full of great color pictures and with an English translation...the Club had just received from Germany. It was decided to auction it off with the money going into the Club treasury. Mike Immel won the auction with a bid of \$35.00. Thanks Mike.

SHOW & TELL:

Eight members has Show & Tell items highlighted by John Baird showing the wonderful large framed nature photograph which won him first place in a national photo contest. Way to go John!

PROGRAM:

Four members brought an unusual, enjoyable or rare photographic item from their collection to share with the membership. Bill Kimber brought three items one of which was a rare first model olive-drab Donald Duck camera...with no external back latches...made for only two months in 1946. Thanks to everyone who took part.

AUCTION AND DOOR PRIZE:

Nine items were put up for auction. Eight sold for a total of \$84.00 going to their old owners.

Mike Servais and Mike Langley won the door prizes.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m. for more buying, selling and nummie munching.



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is www.pspcs.org

Dues are \$20.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, sesparrow9@msn.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our 4th Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET

IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO GIVE AT CHRISTMAS:

And what could be a nicer gift than to take care of your 2006 PSPCS dues and place \$20.00 in the hands of your ever-so-grateful Treasurer, Shirley. Our membership has gotten smaller in the past few years but we still had well over 100 members in 2005. We look forward to each of you renewing your membership for 2006. Good, nice people are hard to find. For just twenty dollars you will receive ten issues of The Bellows, a signed membership card, the joy of attending our ten monthly meetings (we take July and August off so members can more easily sally forth on photographica quests into the hinterlands.) where you can set-up a free sales table, converse with your fellow Club members while munching on our complimentary nummies provided by Shirley. And, of course, you get first notice of our yearly Show & Sale; plus an invitation to our infamous Christmas "pig-out" and gift exchange. All this, and the pleasure of getting out of the house, for only twenty dollars! That's only \$2.00 per meeting! What a deal! So, take check book in hand, or reach for your wallet, and join the eager folks paying their dues for 2006. Thank you.

A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY:

PSPCS received this pitch in the mail several months ago. INFOTECH would like you to sign up for their course. If you are interested..go for it. (the old craftsmen referred to are film camera repairmen.) Ed.

To insure that the knowledge of these old craftsmen is not lost forever, INFOTECH is re-introducing a self-study course in vintage camera repair that was previously introduced almost fifty years ago. It was written and illustrated by one of the most respected camera repair craftsmen of that era.

The course covers in detail the repair of many of the most popular pre- and post-World War II cameras—**Exakta, Leica, Contax, Rolleiflex, Stereo Realist, Bolsey, Ciroflex, Speed Graphic, Argus C-3 and C-4**, plus many others. The 29 lessons in the course are arranged in 3 volumes. All three volumes are available as a single unit, or you may purchase individual volumes, or even the lessons individually.

You can learn all the details about the self-study program by visiting our website at www.in-fotech.com and clicking on the **Valera Course** instructions at the bottom of our home page. All or any part of the course would make an excellent addition to your organization's library or even the libraries of your individual members.

For questions or additional information please contact us by FAX, E-mail or regular mail at

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THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society:

What camera was the first SLR made for 110 film?



SINCERE BEST HOLIDAY WISHES TO YOU & YOURS



Caught on the Internet:

Subject: The NEW marketplace for cameras

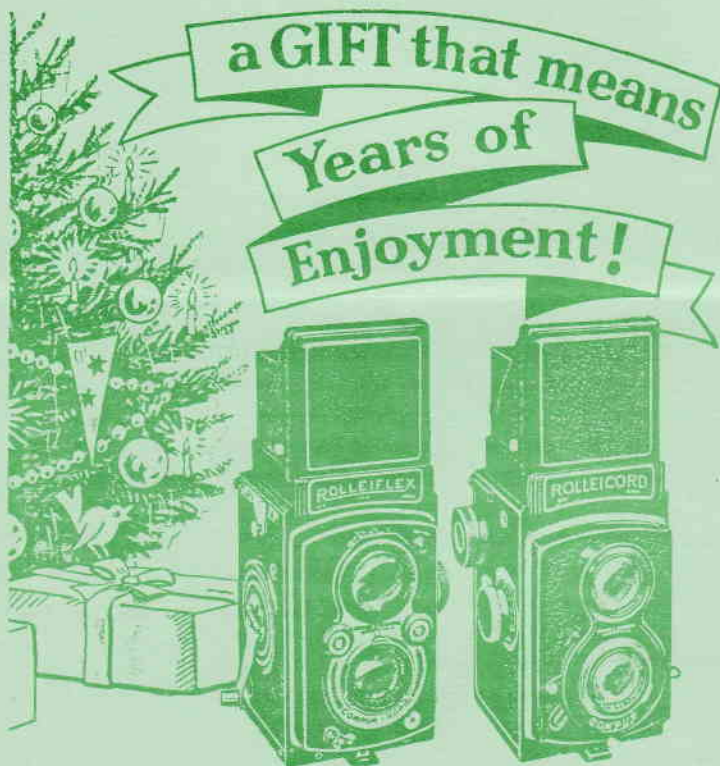
A few weeks ago I was in Wichita Kansas, having a fairly serious and honest talk with a guy who has been in the retail camera business for many decades, and is now one of the few surviving "oldtime camera shop" full service type dealers in Mid America. He said he wished he had sold off more of his hoard a bit earlier; his retirement prospects do not look so great right now. Why? Falling prices on the good old equipment. Now don't make a mistake and think he has failed to see the trend and that he has been a diehard, unwilling to make the switch to digital, or anything like that. Quite the contrary. He is willing to offer his clientele anything in goods or services in digital photo that they might want or need! The problem as he sees it? Markup

The digital manufacturers are in VERY high competition with each other, and this is making it a buyer's market, to the point that the retail list prices are running a very tight race. This means that there is VERY low profit margin for the guy who markets the hardware in his shop. A couple of percent at best. As opposed to the old days, when a guy would sell an SLR or RF system to a customer, and make a nice chunk off the transaction, for which the customer got in return, a happy dealer who was willing to support the sale with follow up service, advice, and loyalty. But if that same dealer now sells a mid to high level digital camera, he gets very little. It is a market situation that favors the big super stores, the mass marketing discount houses.

And what hurts further, the camera shop is also in direct competition with a totally different sort of business establishment: computer stores, electronic stores, even grocery stores and furniture stores are now also selling the same cameras, and at a much more competitive price.

So the consumer gets relatively cheap goods (relative to the technology and development costs, but not cheaper than a film camera might be), the superstores get a lot of volume, and the small family owned shop struggles to survive. And the "consumer" also gets a less personable and personal service followup. A vigorous economy, but one that is neither kinder nor gentler. E.K. St. Louis

The article above is from the October 2005 newsletter of the Chicago Photographic Collectors Society and is used with thanks. Ed.



Minicam Photography Dec. 1938

Answer: The Minolta 110 Zoom SLR c. 1976 featured a fully automatic aperture-priority exposure and is valued at \$65-\$100. It is similar and larger in shape of the Fotochrome by Kuribayshi (Petri) for direct color prints w/factory processing c. 1965.



Photo courtesy kameramuseum.de